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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (UNAVEM III)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of Security Council resolution 1008 (1995) of 7 August 1995, in which the Council, inter alia, endorsed my intention to submit a comprehensive report on UNAVEM III every two months. It covers major developments since my last report dated 4 October 1995 (S/1995/842).

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. President José Eduardo dos Santos and Mr. Jonas Savimbi, President of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), met in Franceville (Gabon) on 10 August and in Brussels on 25 September 1995. It had been expected that these meetings would foster a climate of mutual trust and confidence between the Government and UNITA and facilitate increased contacts between officials of both parties. However, a shooting incident on 14 October at the Luanda residence of the UNITA Chief-of-Staff, General Arlindo Chenda Pena "Ben-Ben", in which one of his bodyguards was injured, constituted a serious setback. UNITA considered the incident to be an attempt on the life of its Chief-of-Staff who, shortly afterwards, left for Bailundo. The military talks between the Government and UNITA on the global incorporation of UNITA troops into the Forças Armadas Angolanas (FAA) and the completion of the formation of the joint army were suspended, as were several other activities. This resulted in a regrettable delay in the peace process until General "Ben-Ben" returned to Luanda on 13 November.

3. During this period, my Special Representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, met President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi on several occasions to try to persuade them to resume discussions on the military questions and other pending issues. In the meantime, representatives of several Member States urged the parties to put the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol 1/ back on track, including Mr. George Moose, United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, who held talks with both President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi in November. I myself met the President during the celebration of the fiftieth

anniversary of the United Nations and emphasized to him the need to accelerate implementation of the peace process. I also stressed the link between the support that the international community was willing to provide to Angola and progress in implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

4. On 9 November, senior government officials visited Bailundo. Following this visit, General "Ben-Ben" returned to Luanda on 13 November and the Government and UNITA issued a joint communiqué (S/1995/991, annex) in which they reaffirmed their commitment to the Lusaka Protocol and their willingness to cooperate in furthering the peace process. This positive development was followed, on 20 November, by the first movements of UNITA troops into the quartering areas, as described in paragraph 18 below.

5. The Joint Commission, the principal body charged with the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, has continued to meet regularly under the chairmanship of my Special Representative. During a special session held on 16 October 1995, the leaders of the Permanent Council of the Catholic Bishops of Angola voiced their strong concern at certain developments that had been delaying the peace process. The repatriation of mercenaries was also raised in the Joint Commission and both sides presented their respective positions. The Commission decided to remain seized of the matter and my Special Representative continues to appeal to the Government and UNITA to demonstrate goodwill in the search for common ground on this issue.

6. Despite the efforts of the Joint Commission and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), no further progress has been achieved with respect to the release of prisoners. My Special Representative has urged UNITA, which has released only 20 prisoners so far, compared with the Government's 210, to give this important humanitarian matter greater urgency. The issue should not be treated in terms of reciprocity, since the Lusaka Protocol provides that the prisoners should be released rather than exchanged on a reciprocal basis.

7. The delays in the establishment of an independent UNAVEM III radio station have been repeatedly discussed with the Government of Angola. Although UNAVEM III has been offered more time on national radio and television, no adequate response has been received so far from the Government regarding the United Nations own radio station, and the situation essentially remains as described in my last report to the Council.

III. MILITARY ASPECTS

A. UNAVEM III deployment and strength

8. The full deployment of the military component of UNAVEM III is close to completion. As of 30 November 1995, UNAVEM III had a total of 6,184 military personnel all ranks, including 331 military observers who have been deployed to over 60 locations throughout Angola (see annex 1). Five additional sites will be established when adequate logistical support becomes available.

9. Five of the projected six infantry battalions (from Brazil, India, Uruguay, Romania and Zimbabwe), as well as numerous support units, have been deployed to

five of the six areas of operation in Angola. The presence of the troops has already had a positive impact on the overall military situation in the country, despite the disturbing delays in the quartering process. Still to arrive are the infantry units from Argentina and Zambia (300 each) and Namibia (200), the remainder of the Portuguese logisticians and a bridging company recently offered by Ukraine. All of the above units are scheduled to arrive in Angola in the next few weeks. It has been decided, however, to cancel the induction of a small naval unit as its services are no longer deemed essential.

10. Deployment of United Nations troops to the eastern parts of the country has been hindered by mined roads and damaged bridges (see para. 42 below), as well as by difficulties in sustaining UNAVEM III sites by air, given the present financial constraints. It has been decided to give priority to the deployment of smaller units of United Nations troops to locations where UNITA forces are to be quartered.

B. Observance of the cease-fire

11. The military situation remains calm in most regions. The number of cease-fire violations was 77 in October and 71 in November. The attempts of UNAVEM III to verify these incidents have often been hindered by delays in the submission of complaints, incomplete information, inaccessibility and the lack of necessary cooperation on the part of the Angolan parties. Since 1 October 1995, UNAVEM III has investigated 201 alleged violations, 31 of which were confirmed and attributed to FAA and 38 to UNITA; 96 allegations are still under investigation; and the remainder could not be investigated for various reasons.

12. UNAVEM III continues to monitor the military situation and to defuse individual incidents, most of which consist of small-scale attacks, ambushes and looting. In many areas, government and UNITA troops are still in close proximity and their aggressive patrolling undermines attempts to create the atmosphere of trust that is necessary for the quartering process. Tensions have been most acute in the provinces of Uige, Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul, where large troop movements have taken place. There have been signs that the Government was preparing military operations against banditry and illegal mining in the Lundas, but subsequent reports indicate that these potentially destabilizing actions have been cancelled or at least deferred.

13. At the same time, I regret to have to report that a propaganda campaign was launched against UNAVEM III in the provinces of Uige and Benguela, apparently with the encouragement, or at least the connivance, of both parties. Hostile demonstrations were held at the UNAVEM III regional headquarters in Uige and, in a Government-controlled radio programme, the population of the province was urged to "prepare for war" against UNAVEM III. In separate incidents on 24 and 25 October, UNAVEM III and United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance Coordination (UCAH) convoys were detained and subjected to harassment by UNITA. My Special Representative strongly protested these actions to the parties, including at the highest level; both sides offered assurances that such incidents would not be repeated. Increasing acts of banditry also pose a serious threat to the peace process as well as to the security of United Nations

and other international staff in Angola. In addition, an attack on 11 November by unidentified elements against the UNAVEM III team site in Cabinda, which resulted in serious injury to a United Nations civilian police observer, underscores the need for the two parties to abide by their commitment to provide adequate security for all UNAVEM III personnel.

C. Formation of the national armed forces and related issues

14. The negotiations on the completion of the formation of the FAA resumed on 17 November 1995, after the return to Luanda of the UNITA military delegation headed by General "Ben Ben". This is a crucial question. Unless an equitable and practicable agreement is reached without delay, it could have a negative impact on many elements of the peace process, including the quartering process. At the same time, preparations must be made by the Government for implementation of this vital aspect of the Lusaka Protocol which, together with the demobilization and reintegration programmes, will require substantial financial and other resources. Primary responsibility for the formation of the joint army lies with the Government, but bilateral assistance could assist in ensuring the success of this ambitious project. My Special Representative has appealed to Member States for contributions for this purpose.

15. The Government and UNITA have been repeatedly requested to provide the United Nations with information regarding the strength and location of their forces and armaments. Such data will need to be verified as troops begin to move into quartering areas, barracks or areas of concentration, in accordance with the Lusaka Protocol. Although both parties recently provided UNAVEM III with some information, both have fallen far short of providing all the data required. UNITA has also failed to colocate its liaison offices with UNAVEM III regional headquarters, a step that is long overdue but which will be facilitated if the Government will provide these UNITA personnel with accommodation, security and other support.

D. Quartering process

16. Reconnaissance of 15 quartering areas for UNITA troops was completed some time ago and all sites but one have been approved by the parties. Despite formidable logistical difficulties, some progress has been made in construction of some of the quartering areas. Two in the Central Region, Vila Nova and Londiumbali, have been fully completed, while the basic infrastructure of the quartering areas at Negage and Quibaxe in the Northern Region has been established. A phased approach to quartering has accordingly been adopted, in accordance with an agreement reached earlier between the Government and UNITA. Construction of six additional cantonment areas has begun. Contrary to earlier understandings with UNITA, however, construction has so far been done mostly by UNAVEM III, particularly by its military component.

17. All relevant preparations for the quartering process are being carried out in close cooperation with UCAH, including the prepositioning of food and medical supplies, installation of computer equipment to register combatants and their weapons and the deployment of United Nations personnel and support staff from

non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Important elements of the quartering process include the delivery of water and other basic provisions to the families who will accompany UNITA soldiers in cantonment, the provision of health kits and preparation for reintegration programmes. Voluntary contributions are being sought for these activities. While the donor community has already responded generously to the appeals of my Special Representative, additional assistance is urgently required.

18. The quartering of UNITA forces was finally launched in Vila Nova, Huambo province, on 20 November, the date of the first anniversary of the signing of the Lusaka Protocol. My Special Representative and the delegations to the Joint Commission were in attendance. For both political and logistical reasons, this process is almost one year later than intended and is proceeding at a very slow pace; on 1 December 1995, those who had reported for cantonment of Vila Nova numbered only 363 and the Government complained that they were "boy soldiers" with unserviceable weapons. This worryingly recalls the practice of both sides in implementing the Bicesse accords in 1991-1992. After surrendering their weapons, ex-combatants are registered on a computerized system and issued with identification cards and hygiene kits. A system of weekly food distribution has been established. Although it had been agreed that, on average, 150 soldiers would be quartered daily in Vila Nova, this target is still far from being realized. The Government has finally provided UNAVEM III with information on the locations, in Huambo and Uige provinces, to which FAA forces will withdraw. In accordance with the Lusaka Protocol, this process should be implemented in a timely manner and fully verified by the United Nations.

E. Demining

19. The presence of large numbers of unexploded mines still seriously affects all United Nations operations in Angola. Accordingly, coordinated efforts by UNAVEM III, UCAH, international NGOs, the Government and UNITA continue to be required, and some progress has been achieved in this regard.

20. With assistance from several NGOs, UNAVEM III has pursued its demining activities in the quartering areas, along access roads and around bridges designated for reconstruction. The scope of joint government/UNITA mine-sweeping operations is still limited, owing mainly to continued mistrust between the two parties. However, joint activities undertaken in the province of Cuando Cubango have already resulted in the opening of several important roads. After some delay, the Government has granted permission to a United Nations-contracted South African demining company to begin operations. Germany is contributing the services of several experts to assist in quality control of this contract, while the United States will start supplying bridging equipment in December. This is absolutely essential not only for UNAVEM III operations but also for the future rehabilitation of roads in Angola.

21. Recently, there have been several accidents caused by mine explosions in the provinces of Benguela, Huambo, Malange and Lunda Norte on roads that had already been in use for several months. The possibility cannot be ruled out that fresh mines are being laid in some areas, though the demining that took place prior to the opening of many access routes was not systematic. The Joint

Commission has therefore urged the Government to repeat its mine-sweeping operations on some of these roads.

22. In the meantime, the Demining School established by the Central Mine Action Office of UCAH is now set to begin a training course for the first group of 112 Angolan students. It will be conducted by military experts provided by UNAVEM III and donors. The Central Mine Action Office is also cooperating with the Angolan National Institute for the Removal of Explosive Devices in the joint training of some 250 local deminers recruited from the ranks of former Angolan soldiers. The Institute has organized a mine-awareness course for national NGOs which has prepared 100 graduates so far, while international NGOs specializing in demining activities have conducted similar programmes in several of the most severely affected areas.

IV. POLICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS

23. As of 30 November 1995, the number of civilian police observers (CIVPOL) serving with UNAVEM III reached 253, out of an authorized strength of 260. Four additional civilian police team sites have become operational, bringing the total to 33. The activities of CIVPOL have continued to focus on verification and monitoring the activities of the Angolan national police, the quartering of the rapid reaction police, special security arrangements for Angolan leaders and other tasks prescribed by the Lusaka Protocol. CIVPOL is also working closely with members of the newly established human rights unit in monitoring and, as necessary, investigating human rights violations.

24. During the period under review, priority was given to the quartering of the rapid reaction police as an important confidence-building and security measure, especially at the initial stages of the quartering of UNITA troops. After numerous meetings with the Commander of the rapid reaction police, the Mission was finally granted access to its barracks in Luanda and, subsequently, in Huambo and Uige. In some areas, the designated barracks are in such a dilapidated condition that urgent action by the Government is required to repair them. The Angolan national police authorities have also recently provided UNAVEM III with information on the number of rapid reaction police officers to be quartered in 10 locations and on their armaments. Additional, and more detailed, data are still required, however, to initiate effective verification procedures. It is also important to finalize and implement plans for the disarmament of Angolan civilians; UNAVEM III has been working with the Government to prepare such a programme nationwide.

25. Security arrangements for UNITA leaders are a particularly sensitive issue, especially following the incident at General Ben-Ben's residence (see para. 2 above). It is important that the two sides formulate without further delay an effective plan for the security of UNITA leaders; this is an indispensable element of national reconciliation. In pursuance of the Lusaka Protocol, the Government has already agreed to accept 212 UNITA security personnel for training and deployment as members of the special group of the Angolan national police that is responsible for the protection of national political leaders and the diplomatic corps.

26. Human rights continue to be of special concern, particularly in the light of violations against civilians by the military and police on both sides. Harassment, looting, kidnapping, extortion at checkpoints and other crimes are widespread, notwithstanding repeated assurances by both sides of their commitment to end human rights abuses.

27. At the request of the parties, UNAVEM III intends to launch a nationwide programme to disseminate basic information on human rights. In particular, my Special Representative is holding a series of training workshops and seminars for government officers, both in the capital and in the regions. The first such seminar, held in Luanda on 23 November, focused on the role of the Lusaka Protocol in the protection of human rights and on UNAVEM III's plan of action in this area for the period up to February 1997. At the same time, the human rights unit of UNAVEM III has formulated an orientation programme for the Mission's own military and police observers, with a view to facilitating their monitoring activities. Additional human rights monitors will also be deployed to the regions and it is hoped that this will generate support from local government and UNITA officials for better respect for human rights.

V. HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

28. The spontaneous, as well as organized, return of internally displaced people to areas of origin has continued. In mid-October some 700 internally displaced people were transported by the World Food Programme (WFP) from Benguela to Huambo in a joint effort by government authorities, United Nations agencies and NGOs. As regards the planned resettlement of the displaced population now residing in the area of Jamba, Cuando Cubango province, the Government has held meetings with donors and agencies concerned and, in conjunction with UNITA, has been analysing various alternatives.

29. The return movement still involves less than 10 per cent of the displaced population, which is estimated at 1.2 million. It is expected to slow down further during the coming five months both because of transport difficulties during the rainy season and because people will not have been able to return to their home areas in time for the current agricultural season. As a result, there will be a need for sustained humanitarian assistance to approximately 1.1 million internally displaced people throughout 1996. The slow pace of return can also be attributed to political and security factors. Checkpoints on roads continue to exist in many parts of the country, despite the parties' undertakings to abolish them entirely, and there has recently been an increase in incidents of harassment of United Nations agency and NGO staff at them.

30. Progress nevertheless continues in the expansion of overland humanitarian access. Several main roads from the coast to major towns in the hinterland have now been opened, as have some secondary roads in the interior. Following the completion of road and bridge repairs by UNAVEM III in early October, the road from Lobito to Huambo has been used by humanitarian convoys. The opening of this and other routes will facilitate the assistance programme to UNITA quartering areas in the provinces of Huambo and Bié, as well as various humanitarian activities in the central highlands.

31. In the agriculture sector, 8,500 tons of seeds have been dispatched to the provinces, more than 80 per cent of which has already been distributed in a joint effort by the Government, United Nations agencies and NGOs. Provided rainfall is adequate, food security in the interior is likely to improve after the May 1996 harvest, reducing the need for humanitarian food assistance.

32. I regret to have to report the loss of an aeroplane, chartered by WFP, which disappeared on 21 October on a flight from Luanda to Johannesburg with five people on board. The wreckage was found only on 30 October in the province of Cuando Cubango; there were no survivors. The cause of the accident is under investigation, but it is believed that it may have been due to severe weather conditions.

VI. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

33. Following the successful round-table conference of donors held in Brussels on 25 and 26 September 1995, the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been asking donors for financial details of their pledges. They have also begun to establish mechanisms for overall coordination of the community rehabilitation programme and for transparency of financial management. The Government is expected to establish a coordination structure at the central level, which, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Planning, will include representatives of key ministries, the donor community and UNDP. Similarly, there will be coordination committees at the provincial level that will include all active local participants.

34. Given the lack of adequately trained national personnel, these coordination and monitoring mechanisms will require technical assistance. The Ministry of Planning and UNDP have, therefore, agreed on the establishment of technical support units within the Ministry of Planning and the provincial planning directorates. These units will assist provincial administrations with aid coordination, project formulation and monitoring; provide access to financing mechanisms; and ensure the flow of communication, including financial reporting, to donors. The first technical unit will be established in Huambo province.

35. Meanwhile, programmes are being designed on the basis of specific donor interests - either on a geographical or sectoral basis. UNDP and United Nations agencies will be ready to provide donors with technical assistance in the appraisal of their specific programmes. The Government, in collaboration with UNDP, UCAH and the International Labour Organization, is also preparing specific programmes to support the social integration of demobilized soldiers. These programmes, to be administered through the Institute for the Reintegration of Ex-Soldiers and the Ministry of Social Assistance, will provide counselling and referral service, vocational training, business training, micro-credits and tool kits, as well as grants for quick-impact projects.

36. An emergency rehabilitation credit is being prepared under the auspices of the World Bank. The credit will concentrate on support for a specific list of import items, as well as rehabilitation of the physical infrastructure for key provincial and urban centres, other than Luanda, damaged during the conflict. The World Bank is preparing separately a substantial credit for rehabilitation

of the water supply and sanitation systems of Luanda. Further, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission is expected to review the agreed staff monitoring programme and the Swedish-funded UNDP/IMF support for financial management. Plans to tackle a new surge of hyperinflation, as well as the costs of the peace process, including the incorporation of all UNITA soldiers into FAA, will also be under review.

37. In order to strengthen the role of the Bretton Woods Institutions in the revival of the Angolan economy and the consolidation of peace, meetings have been held between my representatives and those of the World Bank and IMF in Washington and New York. Similar meetings have also been held in Luanda between UNAVEM III and representatives of the World Bank and UNDP in order to strengthen cooperation and coordination.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

38. It is encouraging that the Angolan people were able to celebrate the first anniversary of the Lusaka Protocol with peace prevailing in the country. The month-long impasse in the political process has been overcome, and I am particularly heartened by the efforts made by the Government and UNITA to resume negotiations on pending military issues. The joint communiqué issued by the Government and UNITA on 13 November and President dos Santos' statement on the anniversary of Angola's independence reaffirmed the two parties' commitment to implement the agreements they concluded in Lusaka last year.

39. There have been occasions during the period under review when repeated failure by both sides to honour their undertakings has cast doubt on the reality of that commitment. It is of the greatest importance that the commencement of the quartering of UNITA troops should mark a new phase in the Angolan settlement. To be successful, the quartering process must be an uninterrupted and fully verifiable exercise of limited duration. It would be unrealistic, and indeed potentially dangerous, to keep soldiers in cantonment for a long period of time. The subsequent phases of demobilization and integration must also, therefore, be completed expeditiously.

40. I wish to commend the international community for its perseverance in helping the Angolan parties to advance the peace process and for its provision of generous assistance to the national programmes for rehabilitation and national reconstruction. While the Government of Angola must support various programmes relating to the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, especially those concerning the barracking of its own troops and the rapid reaction police and the integration of the armed forces, additional international assistance will be required for the quartering of troops, the demobilization of ex-combatants, demining, reconstruction of roads and other vital tasks. My Special Representative and members of the Secretariat have already initiated contacts in this regard.

41. It is satisfactory that quartering has at last begun, but several important tasks that should have been dealt with in the early stages of the peace process - the release of prisoners, exchange of detailed military information and the resolution of the issue of mercenaries - have hardly yet begun. It is

also unacceptable that violations of the cease-fire and military preparations, including mine-laying, still persist a full year after the signing of the Lusaka Protocol. Human rights abuses and restrictions on the free circulation of the population also continue. This unsatisfactory state of affairs is aggravated by recent propaganda attacks against the United Nations and threats to the safety and security of international personnel in Angola.

42. Both sides must also give evidence of a more serious intention to honour their commitment to open roads, particularly along the main west-east supply routes. Currently, the UNAVEM III logistic system has to transport personnel and supplies mostly by air, stretching the Mission's resources. In such conditions, it will be extremely difficult to move and sustain further United Nations troops in the eastern part of the country. Delays in opening up access roads will also continue to hamper the construction and supply of quartering areas. UNAVEM III may therefore have to revise its operational plans or seek authorization to increase substantially its expenditures on air support.

43. The United Nations is pressing ahead with its task of supporting the efforts of the Angolan people and their leaders to put in place the structures for lasting peace in their country. The deployment of UNAVEM III troops is near completion and the establishment of quartering areas is well advanced. Much has been achieved since the Lusaka Protocol was signed a year ago. But there is no room for complacency. Many of the factors that prevented implementation of the earlier peace accords are still very much in evidence - distrust, continuing military activities, foot-dragging over quartering and related activities, obstruction of free movement and the restoration of government administration, lack of respect for United Nations and other international personnel. The Government and UNITA must demonstrate through concrete action that they are indeed committed to peace and that they are ready to correct these negative factors. I urgently appeal to them to do so.

Notes

1/ S/1994/1441, annex.

Annex

Military and Civilian police personnel

(as of 30 November 1995)

Country	Military observers	Civilian police officers	Staff officers	Troops	Total
Algeria	8	-	-	-	8
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	10	16	21	200	247
Brazil	30 a/	17	39	1 039	1 125
Bulgaria	9	15	-	-	24
Congo	8	-	-	-	8
Egypt	10	15	-		25
Fiji	-	10	-	-	10
France	8	-	8	-	16
Guinea-Bissau	20	3	-	-	23
Hungary	10	8	-	-	18
India	19	13	49	1 014	1 095
Italy	-	-	4	-	4
Jordan	20	20	-	-	40
Kenya	10	-	-	-	10
Malaysia	20	20	-	-	40
Mali	10	15	-	-	25
Morocco	-	1	-	-	1
Netherlands	15	8	8	-	31
New Zealand	5	-	8	-	13
Nigeria	20	20	-	-	40
Norway	4	-	-	-	4
Pakistan	5	-	5	-	10
Poland	7	-	-	-	7
Portugal	8	11	20	206	245
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	198	198

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Country	Military observers	Civilian police officers	Staff officers	Troops	Total
Romania	-	-	26	865	892
Russian Federation	10	-	-	152	162
Senegal	10	-	-	-	10
Slovakia	5	-	-	-	5
Sweden	19	10	-	-	29
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	-	-	3	-	3
United Republic of Tanzania	-	5	-	-	5
Uruguay	10	9	37	800	856
Zambia	10	15	1	50	76
Zimbabwe	22	22	37	798	879
Total	331	253	266	5 323	6 184

a/ Including 11 medical personnel.

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